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WEATHER REPORT

A radio talk by Mr. J. B. Kincer, United States Weather Bureau, delivered through Station WRC and 32 other stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, January 8, 1930 at 1:10 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

Good-afternoon, friends. To-day we shall give you a birdseye view, as it were, of the weather during 1929.

East of the Rocky Mountains, the year, as a whole, was somewhat cooler and wetter than normal in most States, while west of the mountains these conditions were reversed, the records showing warmer and drier than normal, as a general rule. In the Atlantic Coast States, the temperature averaged from one-half of a degree to 1° above normal, while throughout the interior and Northwest it was mostly from 1° to nearly 2° below normal. The most abnormal conditions as to rainfall were in the Southeastern States where some sections had more than 50 per cent above normal, and in the Pacific coast area where a good many localities had less than half the normal amount for the year.

Last winter, beginning with January, was unusually cold, that month and February combined making one of the coldest two-months period of record in many northern sections. The lowest temperature reported for the winter was 60° below zero, on February 8, at Chugwater, Wyo. Now, I think you will agree that 60° below zero is rather cold, but if we go back 41 years, to January, 1888, we find the record of a still lower temperature, or 65° below zero in Montana; this is the lowest official temperature of record in the United States. It may be of interest, however, to note that a temperature below zero has occurred in past years as far south as Florida.

The growing season of 1929 was no exception to the rule that there are always certain weather features harmful to crops over more or less extensive areas. For the principal agricultural States one outstanding adverse condition in last year's weather may be noted in the unfavorably heavy and continuous rains, with cool weather, in some central valley States. This greatly delayed the planting of corn and many farmers got their crop in very late, especially in eastern Kansas, Missouri, southern Iowa, and the southern half of Kansas. Later in the season, especially during the latter part of July, and in August, many sections had damaging drought. This was most severe between the Mississippi River and Rocky Mountains, and late corn in that area was badly damaged. August was especially dry, being the driest in 10 to 27 years over an area from the west Gulf northward to Canada. The fall months, however, were unusually favorable for maturing late corn, without widespread serious damage from frost.

Winter wheat largely escaped the drought, as it has mostly matured; but spring wheat was caught rather badly, with resulting damage. In the late summer and fall there was considerable delay in the preparation of the soil and seeding of winter wheat, because of dry weather, but late, opportune rains and the tardiness of winter largely saved the situation and permitted the crop to get a good start before winter set in. This was generally true, except in the dry Pacific sections where very unfavorable conditions prevailed.

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In the Cotton Belt, temperatures during the summer were mostly moderate and unusually uniform from week to week. As regards moisture, there were two outstanding unfavorable aspects: These were the severe drought in the western belt the latter part of the season, which, however, favored holding the boll weevil in check, and the persistently heavy rainfall during the fall months in the eastern belt, which interfered with picking and damaged open staple.

The summer season brought its usual quota of both warm and cool spells. The distinction for the highest temperature during the year went, as usual, to Greenlands Ranch, Calif, in Death Valley; here, on July 5, the thermometer registered 123° in the shade, which was, however, 11° cooler than a previous, reading of 134° at that place. This latter is the highest shade temperature of record in the United States, and probably in the world, though it has been claimed that a slightly higher temperature occurred recently in the Sahara Desert.

We have a wonderful variety of climate in the United States, and those of us who may perspire at the thought of such high temperatures could visit other sections during the same season and find the weather cool enough to make us shiver. Fifteen of the 48 States show official July low temperature records in 1929 of freezing or lower. Mind you, in July. California, for example, in addition to having the highest record for the year, had, in another part of the State a July temperature 2° below freezing. In August 18 States had freezing or lower. It may be of interest to note that most of this summary for the weather during 1929, is based on records <sup>from</sup> about 5,000 stations, scattered throughout the United States, all equipped with standard Weather Bureau instruments.

And now, hoping that the weather during the coming year will favor you, with abundant harvests, and wishing you a full measure of happiness, we must say good-bye for this time.